

Western | Centre for Research & Education | On Violence Against Women & Children

Core Competencies for Domestic Violence Training Programs

Core Competency	Knowledge & Skills		
Recognition	 a) Characteristics b) Prevalence (gender analysis) c) Dynamics of abusive relationships What is not abuse? (what is a healthy relationship? What does conflict look like in a healthy relationship? d) Understanding violence from a broader context (AR/AO – Human Rights – decolonization framework - social determinants model). 		
Recognition	 a) On the woman experiencing or having experienced volence? b) On her children and family c) Health affects d) Other relationships e) On vulnerable populations f) Understanding trauma g) Intersectional impacts of Mental Health, Addictions, Criminalization h) Systems that the woman has to interface with. 		
Response	 3. Interventions a) Having the conversation so trust is built. b) Creating safe environments for disclosure c) Disclosure response d) What else is going on in her life that complicates intervention? e) Risk management/Threat Assessment f) Safety Plans g) Unintended consequences h) Supports available i) Resource materials to provide 		
Reporting Risk Reduction	4. Professional role and practice in the workplace a) Workplace policy b) Roles/responses and mandate c) Workplace program		

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		d) Documentation, confidentiality and	
		information sharing	
		e) Worker's safety	
		f) Understanding strengths and	
		limitations of the professional	
		frameworks within one's	
		sector/organization	
Refer	5.	Professional role and practice outside the	
Risk Reduction		workplace	
		a) Roles/responses and mandate	
		b) Understanding strengths and limitations	
		of the professional frameworks	
		c) Making effective Referrals	
Refer	6.	Inter/Intra Professional Collaboration	
Risk Reduction		a) Developing an integrated approach to	
		intervention	
		b) Confidentiality (information sharing)	
		c) Mapping the network	
		d) Strengthening professional relationships	
		and networks	
Personal & Professional Development	7.	Self-Reflection/ (reflective practices)	
		a) Personal values, attitudes and beliefs	
		specific to the professional/	
		worker/learner	
		b) Engagement with self-care	
		c) Compassion fatigue	
		d) Commitment to continuous learning	